

protect the continued viability of such populations, or to continue subsistence uses, the Board shall establish a priority among the rural Alaska residents after considering any recommendation submitted by an appropriate Regional Council.

(b) The priority shall be implemented through appropriate limitations based on the application of the following criteria to each area, community, or individual determined to have customary and traditional use, as necessary:

(1) Customary and direct dependence upon the populations as the mainstay of livelihood;

(2) Local residency; and

(3) The availability of alternative resources.

(c) If allocation on an area or community basis is not achievable, then the Board shall allocate subsistence opportunity on an individual basis through application of the criteria in paragraphs (b)(1) through (3) of this section.

(d) In addressing a situation where prioritized allocation becomes necessary, the Board shall solicit recommendations from the Regional Council in the area affected.

§ 242.18 Regulation adoption process.

(a) Proposals for changes to the Federal subsistence regulations in subparts C or D of this part shall be accepted by the Board according to a published schedule. The Board may establish a rotating schedule for accepting proposals on various sections of subpart C or subpart D regulations over a period of years. The Board shall develop and publish proposed regulations in the FEDERAL REGISTER and publish notice in local newspapers. Comments on the proposed regulations in the form of proposals shall be distributed for public review.

(1) Proposals shall be made available for at least a thirty (30) day review by the Regional Councils. Regional Councils shall forward their recommendations on proposals to the Board. Such proposals with recommendations may be submitted in the time period as specified by the Board or as a part of the Regional Council's annual report described in § 242.11, whichever is earlier.

(2) The Board shall publish notice throughout Alaska of the availability of proposals received.

(3) The public shall have at least thirty (30) days to review and comment on proposals.

(4) After the comment period the Board shall meet to receive public testimony and consider the proposals. The Board shall consider traditional use patterns when establishing harvest levels and seasons, and methods and means. The Board may choose not to follow any recommendation which the Board determines is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. If a recommendation approved by a Regional Council is not adopted by the Board, the Board shall set forth the factual basis and the reasons for its decision in writing to the Regional Council.

(5) Following consideration of the proposals the Board shall publish final regulations pertaining to subparts C and D of this part in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) Proposals for changes to subparts A and B of this part shall be accepted by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with 43 CFR part 14.

§ 242.19 Special actions.

(a) The Board may restrict, close, or reopen the taking of fish and wildlife for non-subsistence uses on public lands when necessary to assure the continued viability of a particular fish or wildlife population, to continue subsistence uses of a fish or wildlife population, or for reasons of public safety or administration.

(b) The Board may open, close, or restrict subsistence uses of a particular fish or wildlife population on public lands to assure the continued viability of a fish or wildlife population, to continue subsistence uses of a fish or wildlife population, or for reasons of public safety or administration.

(c) The Board will accept a request for a change in seasons, methods and means, harvest limits and/or restrictions on harvest under this § 242.19 only if there are extenuating circumstances